A Tooth.

Vipera caudisona.

The Section of a Rattle.

A Rattle of Twenty four joynts.

Of SERPENTS.

HAVE seen in *Carolina* eighteen or nineteen Sorts of Serpents; whereof four are of the Viper kind, the others of the Snake kind. It is well known, that the moſt diſtinguiſhing Characteriſticks of the Viper is, that it brings forth its young alive; and of the Snake, that it lays Eggs, out of which its young are afterwards hatch'd. But beſides this Difference, the Viper has long hollow Fangs or Tuſks, with an opening near the Point, thro' which they inject their Poiſon when they bite; its other Teeth are like thoſe of Snakes: Beſides which I have obſerved the following external Marks; the Viper hath the Neck ſmall, the Head broad, the Cheeks extending wide, their Scales rough, the Body ſhort and thick in moſt; is ſlow of Motion, can ſwell his Head and Neck when irritated; hath the Aſpect terrible and ugly: Whereas Snakes have the Head ſmall, the Body long, the Scales ſmooth, are nimble and of an harmleſs Aſpect. All Serpents, as well Vipers as Snakes, have forked Tongues, which ſerve to catch the Inſects they feed on; when they are diſturbed they thruſt them out of their Mouth and ſhake them.

Des SERPENS.

J'AI vû à la Caroline *dix-huit ou dix-nuf eſpèces de Serpens; dont quatre ſont des Vipères, & les autres ſont des Serpens. L'on ſçait aſſez, que ce qui caractériſe particuliérement les Vipères & les Serpens, c'eſt que les Vipères mettent bas leurs petits vivans, & que les Serpens cuident des Oeufs, dont leurs petits éclofent enſuitte. Mais outre cette difference, la Vipère a de longues dents canines creuſes, avec un orifice près de leur pointe, au travers duquel elles lancent leur poiſon quand elles mordent: Leurs autres dents ſont ſemblables à celles des autres Serpens; outre cela j'ay obſervé les marques exterieures ſuivantes: La Vipère a le col menu, la tête large, les joués étenduës, ſes écailles ſont rudes. Le corps de la pluſpart eſt court, & fort épais; elle eſt lente dans ſes mouvements; & peut enfler ſa tête & ſon col quand elle eſt irritée; elle a le regard laid & terrible; au lieu que les Serpens ont la tête menuë, le corps long, & les écailles liſſes; ils ſont agiles, & ont le regard doux. Tous les Serpens en general, Vipères & autres, ont des langues fourchuës, qui leur ſervent à attraper les Inſectes, dont ils ſe nourriſſent. Quand ils ſe trouvent ſurpris, ils lancent cette langue hors de leur gueule en l'agitant.*

VIPERA CAUDISONA AMERICANA.

The Rattle-Snake.

Serpent à Sonnette.

OF theſe Vipers the Rattle Snake is moſt formidable, being the largeſt and moſt terrible of all the reſt: The largeſt I ever ſaw, was one about eight Feet in Length, weighing between eight and nine Pounds: This Monſter was gliding into the Houſe of Colonel *Blake*, of *Carolina*; and had certainly taken his Aboad there undiſcovered, had not the Domeſtick Animals allarmed the Family with their repeated Outcries; the Hogs, Dogs and Poultry united in their Hatred to him, ſhewing the greateſt Conſternation, by erecting their Briſtles and Feathers, and expreſſing their Wrath and Indignation, ſurrounded him, but carefully kept their Diſtance; while he, regardleſs of their Threats, glided ſlowly along.

IT is not uncommon to have them come into Houſes, a very extraordinary Inſtance of which happen'd to my ſelf in the ſame Gentleman's Houſe, in the Month of *February* 1723; the Servant in making the Bed in a Ground Room, (but a few Minutes after I left it) on turning down the Cloaths, diſcovered a Rattle-Snake, lying coiled between the Sheets, in the middle of the Bed.

THEY are the moſt inactive and ſlow moving Snake of all others, and are never the Aggreſſors, except in what they prey upon; for unleſs they are diſturbed they will not bite, and when provoked, they give Warning by ſhaking their Rattles. Theſe are commonly believed to be the moſt deadly venomous Serpent of any in theſe Parts of *America*, I believe they are ſo, as being generally the largeſt, and making a deeper Wound, and injecting a greater Quantity of Poiſon; tho' I know not why any of the three other kinds of Vipers may not be as venomous as a Rattle-Snake, if as big, the Structure of their deadly Fangs being formed alike in all. The moſt ſucceſsful Remedy the *Indians* ſeem to have, is to ſuck the Wound, which in a ſlight Bite has ſometimes a good Effect; tho' the recovered Perſon never fails of having annual Pains at the Time they were bit. They have likewiſe ſome Roots, which they pretend will effect the Cure, particularly a kind of *Aſſarum*, commonly called *Heart-Snake-root*, a kind of *Chryſanthemum*, called St. *Anthony's Croſs*, and ſome others; but that which they rely on moſt, and which moſt of the *Virginian* and *Carolina Indians* carry dry in their Pockets, is a ſmall tuberous Root, which they procure from the remote Parts of the Country; this they chew, and ſwallow the Juice, applying ſome to the Wound. Having by travelling much with *Indians*, had frequent Opportunities of ſeeing the direful Effects of the Bites of theſe Snakes, it always ſeemed and was apparent to me, that the good Effects uſually attributed to theſe their Remedies, is owing more to the Force of Nature, or the Slightneſs of the Bite of a ſmall Snake in a muſcular Part, *&c.* The Perſon thus bit, I have known to ſurvive without any Aſſiſtance for many Hours, but where a Rattle-Snake with full Force penetrates with his deadly Fangs, and pricks a Vein or Artery, inevitable Death enſues, and that, as I have often ſeen, in leſs than two Minutes. The *Indians* know their Deſtiny the Minute they are bit, and when they perceive it mortal, apply no Remedy, concluding all Efforts in vain. If the Bite happeneth in a fleſhy Part, they immediately cut it out, to ſtop the Current of the Poiſon. I could heartily wiſh, that Oil of Olives immediately applied to the Wound, might have as good Succeſs againſt the Venom of theſe Snakes, as it hath been found in *England* to have had againſt the Poiſon of the common Adder.

THE Colour of the Head of this Rattle-Snake is brown, the Eye red, the Upper Part of the Body of a browniſh yellow, tranſverſely marked with irregular broad black Liſts. The Rattle is of a brown Colour, compoſed of ſeveral horney membranous Cells, of an undulated pyramidal Figure, which are articulated one within the other, ſo that the Point of the firſt Cell reaches as far as the Baſis or protuberant Ring of the third and ſo on, which Articulation being very looſe, gives Liberty to the Parts of the Cells that are incloſed within the outward Rings, to ſtrike againſt the Sides of them, and ſo to cauſe the rattling Noiſe, which is heard when the Snake ſhakes its Tail. I have given a Section of a Rattle, that this Structure might the better appear.

THE Charming, as it's commonly called, or attractive Power this Snake is ſaid to have of drawing to it Animals, and devouring them, is generally believed in *America*; as for my own part, I never law the Action, but a great many from whom I have had it related, all agree in the manner of the Proceſs; which is, that the Animals, particularly Birds and Squirrels (which principally are their Prey) no ſooner ſpy the Snake than they ſkip from Spray to Spray, hovering and approaching gradually nearer their Enemy, regardleſs of any other Danger; but with diſtracted Geſtures and Outcries deſcend, tho' from the top of the loftieſt Trees to the Mouth of the Snake, who openeth his Jaws, take them in, and in an inſtant ſwallows them.

lui les animaux pour les dévorer. Je n'ai jamais été témoin de cette action, mais un grand nombre de perſonnes à qui j'en ai entendu faire le recit, conviennent toutes ſur la manière de l'opération. Les animaux, diſent-ils, & particuliérement les Oiſeaux & les Ecureuils, dont ces ſerpens font leur principale nourriture, n'en ont pas plutoſt aperçu un, qu'ils ſautent de branche en branche, volant & approchant de leur ennemi, ſans s'appercevoir aucunement du danger; & avec des geſtes & des cris qui marquent leur étourdiſſement, ils deſcendent même du ſommet des arbres les plus élevez, juſqu'au Serpent qui ouvre ſa gueule, les prend & les avale dans l'inſtant.

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